



Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Research Community

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Image Credit: Xin Xu



Image Credit: Xin Xu

- **Challenges and Changes in Global Research Communities**
 - Research Networks:** Collaboration and Competition
 - Research Ecology:** Openness and Humanism
 - Research Life:** Immobility and Inequality
 - Research Ethics and Impacts:** Integrity and Responsibility
- **Redefining Future Global Research**



- **Research Networks**

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- **Collaboration:** ‘Science without borders?’

- **Cross-border** international collaboration
- **Interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and multi-lateral** collaboration

- **Competition:** Scientific research in negotiation with **intrinsic** pursuit of knowledge, individual interests, institutional benefits, (global) public good, commercial values, and (geo)political issues.

- CGHE PANEL: The global geopolitics of science (Tuesday, 21 July 2020 14:00 - 15:00) <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/panel-the-global-geopolitics-of-science/>



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- **Openness:** Open data, pre-prints/publications, resources, and peer review (temporarily) accelerated by funding bodies, publishers, journals, institutions, and researchers.

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EDITORIAL · 04 FEBRUARY 2020

Calling all coronavirus researchers: keep sharing, stay open

As the new coronavirus continues its deadly spread, researchers must ensure that their work on this outbreak is shared rapidly and openly.

wellcome

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Press release | 31 January 2020

Sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The hunt for a coronavirus cure is showing how science can change for the better

February 24, 2020 2:37pm GMT

Source: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/open-data>;
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00307-x>;
<https://theconversation.com/the-hunt-for-a-coronavirus-cure-is-showing-how-science-can-change-for-the-better-132130>

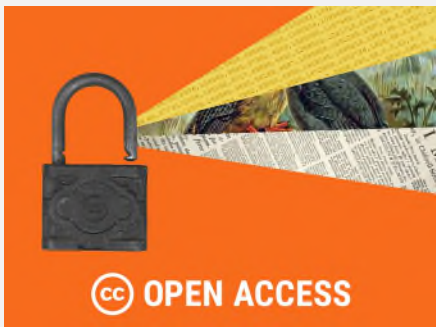


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- **Humanism:** The research world demonstrates **resilience, solidarity, and a culture towards humanism.**
- ‘In this **slow-caring scholarship**, we allow ourselves and our participants time to pause, to reflect and most importantly, to feel the pain, the fatigue, the isolation and the sorrow during this pandemic...’ [Cora Xu, ‘Researching international student mobility into a post-pandemic future (Part II)']

<https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2020/researching-international-student-mobility-into-a-post-pandemic-future-part-ii/>]



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CAREER COLUMN · 20 APRIL 2020

How COVID-19 lockdowns could lead to a kinder research culture

A nascent movement could gather pace as researchers discover more respectful ways of communicating, collaborating and publishing, says Gemma Derrick.

Gemma Derrick

Source:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01144-8>



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- **Immobility:** The combination of **physical immobility/disconnection** and **virtual mobility/connectivity** is redefining international partnership and events:
 - Shifted emphasis on cross-border flows of **data, information, knowledge**
 - Increased **inclusivity, access, cost-efficiency, environmental-friendliness**
 - Concerns over **equality** (such as for previously marginalised groups), **digital security and privacy.**
- **Inequality:** We are **[not]** all in this together.
Academics are weathering the same storm, but under different shelters.
- **Exacerbated inequality and disproportionate impacts:** depending on factors like gender, race, ethnicity, faith, social class, health condition, caregiving responsibility, discipline, institution, career stage, administrative or teaching role, country/place of birth, and country/place of residence.



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- The pandemic did not create the **inequality**, but only intensified it.
- Underlying the tip of the iceberg, is **pre-existing and institutionalised injustice in global research**, with imprints of managerialism, performativity, discrimination, othering, marketisation, and the politicisation of research.

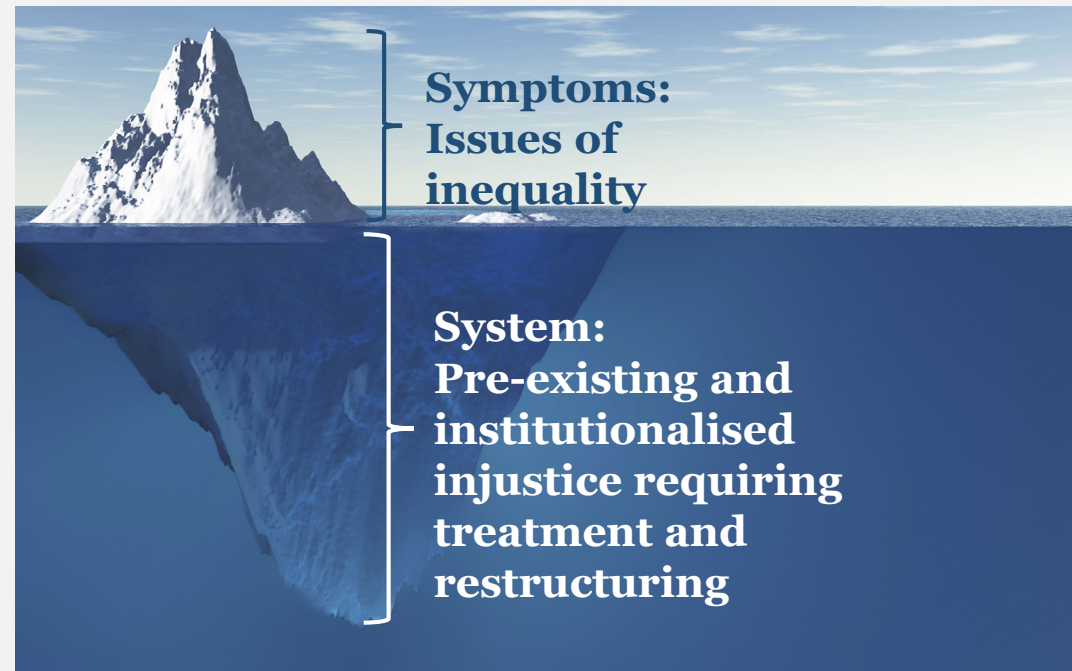


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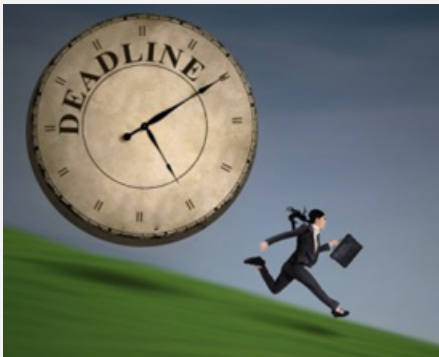


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- **Research Ethics:** Questions on the **rigor, integrity, quality, impact, risk, and value** of conducting research with adjusted methods in a crisis, for research communities, participants, funders, and the society.
- **Ethics and Impacts:** The emphasis on **'urgency'** could **marginalise** some non-COVID-related research (particularly in the humanities and social sciences), while research fields with potentials for **immediate impacts become predominant, better-acknowledged, and well-funded.**
- **Research Impacts:** To what the extent has research generated **positive societal impacts**, been **used and communicated responsibly** (without misinterpretation or misuse), and been **trusted**? Answers vary across governments, media channels, and communities.



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Time to redefine future global research

- Changes can be present and temporary, but the decisions to keep them or not will be **transformative for our future**.
- What will the **'new norms'** be for global research community?
- Will things changed now **be forever transformed**, or existed only as a **'COVID-limited edition'**?
- How can research be understood **beyond a zero-sum game**, but as a **global common good**?
- How can we build a global research community that is **open, equal, ethical, robust, sustainable, humanistic, diversified but collaborative, responsible and trustworthy**?



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Time to redefine future global research

- Addressing those questions will require **a long-term vision, structural changes, and collective commitment** from all.
- What are the roles of academics?

“为天地立心，为生民立命，为往圣继绝学，为万世开太平。”

—— 张载 (1020—1077)

A liberal translation/interpretation:

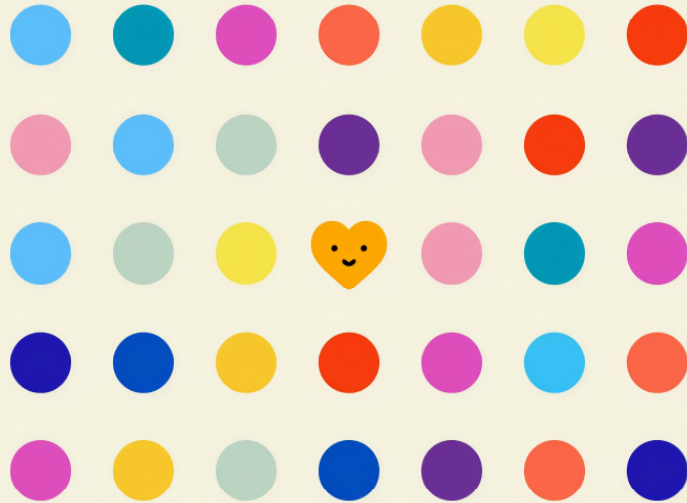
[Intellectuals are --]

‘To establish conscience for the world,
To secure the wellbeing of humankind,
To develop knowledge building on past sages’ scholarship,
To build eternal peace and harmony for future generations.’

-- Zhang Zai (1020-1077)



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YOUR KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS.

Image Credit: United Nations COVID-19 Response on Unsplash

Thank you for your attention 😊

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